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the most available material—coal, hematite, quartz, or glass beads, even as men use clapboards, shingles, slates, or tiles.

In looking at the hills it always appears that we can easily gather a handful of the roofing material, but when we try, it is not so. It needs some little force to detach the particles. They are indeed a roof; they shed the water, so as to prevent the softer material of the building below from being washed away; and we still think that the brightest materials within reach are selected from some relation to the distribution of heat.

ADDITIONS TO THE CATALOGUE OF KANSAS BIRDS.

BY N. S. GOSS, TOPEKA.

Since the publication of my Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas, in 1883, the following additions have been made, and the same will appear in the new work, which awaits the receipt of "The American Ornithologist Union Check List of North American Birds," now in the hands of the printer, as I desire to follow its classification and nomenclature.

The three letters, "B.," "R.," and "C.," each followed by a number, stand respectively for Prof. Spencer F. Baird, Catalogue of 1858; Prof. Robert Ridgway, Catalogue of 1880; and Dr. Elliott Coues, Check List of 1882.

MERULA MIGRATORIA PROPINQUA. B.—. R. 7a. C. 2. Western Robin. A rare visitant in western Kansas. October 12, 1883, I killed two of the birds out of a flock of seven, at Wallace, Kansas.

THRYOMANES BEWICKI LEUCOGASTER. B.—. R. 61b. C. 72. Texan Bewick Wren. Resident; not uncommon in southwestern Kansas. Nests in deserted woodpecker holes, hollow logs, or any nook it may fancy; composed of sticks, roots, straws, and grasses, and lined with fur and a few downy feathers; quite bulky, generally filling the space, but in no case, I think, roofed over. Measurements of five eggs, taken at Corpus Christi, Texas, May 9, 1882: .63x.50; .63x.50; .63x.50; .63x.49; .62x.49; white, speckled with light and dark shades of reddish brown; thickest around large end; in form, oval.

ICTERIA VIRENS LONGICAUDA. B. 177. R. 123a. C. 145. Long-tailed Chat. A summer resident in the western part of the State; not uncommon. In habits and actions like the yellow-breasted, but note and song slightly different. The birds were reported by Prof. F. H. Snow, in vol. 6, page 38, Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science, as "Taken along the Smoky Hill river, in western Kansas, by S. W. Williston, in May, 1877;" but by oversight omitted from my first Catalogue. Attention was immediately called to the same. (See Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, vol. 8, page 227.) June 2, 1885, I shot two of the birds on Crooked creek, in Meade county, and saw several others.

VIREO ATRICAPILLUS. B. 247. R. 142. C. 185. Black-capped Vireo. Summer resident in the gypsum hills in southwestern Kansas. The habits of the birds are but little known. On the 11th of May, 1885, I found the birds building a nest near the head of a deep cañon; suspended from the forks of a small elm tree, about five feet from the ground, hemispherical in shape, and composed of broken fragments of bleached leaves, with here and there an occasional spider's cocoon, interwoven with and fastened to the twigs with fibrous strippings, threads from plants, and the webs of spiders, and lined with fine stems from weeds and grasses; above, it was screened from sight by the thick foliage of the trees, but beneath, for quite a distance, there was nothing to hide it from view. The material of which it was made, however, so

closely resembled the gypsum that had crumbled from the rocks above, that the casual observer would have passed it by unnoticed. I regret that I could not stay for the eggs, but as the birds are quite common in that vicinity (southeastern Comanche county), I trust that before another season passes I shall be able to describe the eggs.

PASSERCULUS SANDWICHENSIS ALAUDINUS. B. 335. R. 193*b*. C. 229. Western Savanna Sparrow. Migratory. October 14, 1885, I shot one of the birds, a male, near "Lake Inman," in McPherson county, and saw several others. I am inclined to think they will prove to be quite a common bird in the western part of the State, but they so closely resemble *P. sandwichensis savanna* that they have not been noticed. The birds are, however, considerably smaller and paler in color—a bleached race of the plains.

ZONOTRICHIA GAMBELI INTERMEDIA. B. 346. R. 207*a*. C. 277. Intermediate White-crowned Sparrow. Migratory. Quite common in the middle and western part of the State. Arrive the last of April to first of May.

PASSEERINA CIRIS. B. 384. R. 251. C. 292. Nonpareil Bunting. Summer resident in southwestern Kansas. May 7 to 18, 1885, I found the birds quite common in the gypsum hills near the State line. Arrive the last of April to first of May. Begin laying the last of May. Nest in the forks of bushes and low trees, composed of grasses, sometimes of leaves at the base, and lined with the finer grasses and hairs. Eggs four or five; .70x.53; cream white, thinly specked and spotted with purple and reddish brown, thickest about large end; in form, rounded-oval.

SPHYRAPICUS VARIUS NUCHALIS. B. 86. R. 369*a*. C. 447. Red-naped Woodpecker. Migratory in western Kansas. Rare. I killed a pair out of three young birds found in the willows and cottonwoods thinly skirting the south fork of the Smoky Hill river, at Wallace, October 12th and 14th, 1883.

GEOCOCYX CALIFORNIANUS. B. 68. R. 385. C. 427. Chapparral Cock. An occasional visitant in western Kansas. Mr. Charles Dyer, Division Superintendent of the A. T. & S. F. R. R. at Las Vegas, New Mexico, writes me that in September, 1884, he saw two of the birds near the railroad, and about fifteen miles east of the west line of the State, and that he has seen them quite often in Colorado, near the State line. The birds are known to breed as far east as Las Animas, and I feel confident that they occasionally breed in the southwestern corner of the State, a natural habitat of the birds; but unsettled and little known, especially as to its bird-life.

BUBO VIRGINIANUS SUBARCTICUS. B. —. R. 405*a*. C. 463. Western Horned Owl. October 29th, 1885, I shot a male in the timber skirting the south fork of Beaver creek, in Rawlins county.

BUTEO BOREALIS KRIDERI. B. —. R. 436*a*. C. 519. Krider's Hawk. October 12th, 1883, I killed a female near Wallace, and think I saw, during the day, another; but the birds at a distance so closely resemble the light phase of *Archibuteo ferrugineus* that I was not positive. They are birds of the plains, found from Texas to Minnesota.

HIMANTOPUS MEXICANUS. B. 518. R. 567. C. 601. Black-necked Stilt. Mr. W. H. Gibson, formerly of Topeka, now of Las Vegas, New Mexico, (taxidermist,) informs me that he saw three of the birds about the middle of June, 1881, on low, wet ground near the Arkansas river, at Lakin. Without doubt the birds occasionally breed in southwestern Kansas.

PORZANA NOVEBORACENSIS. B. 557. R. 575. C. 680. Little Yellow Rail. Summer resident. Rare. Prof. L. L. Dyche, Curator of Birds and Mammals, State University, writes me that April 18th, 1885, he captured one of the birds (a female) on

low, wet land, about five miles southeast of Lawrence. The specimen is mounted, and in the fine collection under his charge. It is the first bird, to my knowledge, captured or seen in the State. But this is not strange, as the birds inhabit the marshy grounds, and at the least alarm run, skulk and hide in the reeds or grass, and it is next to impossible to force them to take wing. Therefore seldom seen, even where known to be common. I enter the bird as summer resident, because they have been found both north and south of us, and are known to breed within their geographical range. Nest on the ground. The following description is from vol. I, North American Water Birds: "Its nest resembles the ordinary loosely-constructed one of this family. . . . Three eggs in the Smithsonian collection, (No. 7,057,) from Winnebago, in northern Illinois, measure respectively 1.08 inches by .85; 1.12 by .82; 1.12 by .80. They are of oval shape, one end slightly more tapering than the other. Their ground color is a very deep buff, and one set of markings, which are almost entirely confined to the larger end, consist of blotches of pale, diluted purplish brown; these are overlain by a dense sprinkling of fine dottings of rusty brown." [NOTE.—October 1st, Professor Dyche captured on the Wakarusa bottom lands, two and a half miles south of Lawrence, another of the little birds, a female, and he thinks a *young* bird. The lucky finds were both caught by his dog.]

GALLINULA GALEATA. B. 560. R. 579. C. 684. Florida Gallinule. Prof. F. H. Snow writes me, under date of October 20th, 1885, that since the publication of his "Birds of Kansas," in 1875, he has personally obtained in the State two specimens of *Gallinula galeata*. The first was captured by himself, June 14th, 1878, on the Hackberry, in Gove county; the second by a friend in the vicinity of Lawrence. The bird was entered in his catalogue on the authority of Professor Baird, and at the time of the publication of my catalogue in 1883 they were known to breed both north and south of the State, and therefore safe to enter as a Kansas bird. But my list only embraced the birds that came under my own observation, and that of others as reported to me. From the fact that the birds nest within their geographical range, and its capture so late in June, I now enter it as a rare summer resident. I have found the birds nesting in Wisconsin as early as the middle of May. Nest in rushes and reeds growing in shallow water or on swampy lands, build on the tops of old broken-down stalks, and the nests are composed of the same material, weeds and grasses; also the leaves of the cat-tail flag, when growing in the vicinity; a circular structure, and in some cases quite deep and bulky. Eggs usually eight to ten, 1.73x1.24; buff-white, thinly spotted and splashed with varying shades of reddish-brown; in form oval. One set of thirteen collected May 25th, 1878, on a bog in Pewaukee lake, Wisconsin, measured as follows: 1.63x1.18, 1.84x1.27, 1.67x1.18, 1.60x1.16, 1.67x1.18, 1.78x1.30, 1.81x1.29, 1.79x1.29, 1.88x1.27, 1.70x1.16, 1.80x1.30, 1.75x1.18, 1.80x1.28.

ANAS FULVIGULA. B. —. R. 603. C. 709. Florida Dusky Duck. Migratory; rare. Arrive about the middle of March. Captured a female at Neosho Falls, March 11th, 1876. I have since shot one, and observed two others in the State. The birds were entered in first catalogue as *A. obscura*.

TACHYPETES AQUILA. B. 619. R. 639. C. 761. Man-of-War Bird. Frigate Pelican. A straggler. Mr. Frank Lewis, of Downs, Kansas, reports to me the capture of the bird on the North Fork of the Solomon river, in Osborne county, August 16, 1880. It was killed with a stone while sitting on a tree. The specimen has passed out of his hands, but he sends me a photograph of the bird, taken after it was mounted, which removes all previous doubts as to its identification. The birds are strictly maritime, and largely parasitical in habits. Their home is on the coast of tropical and sub-tropical America. They are known to be great wanderers along

the seaboard, but this is, I think, the first record of its being found away from the coast range, and to straggle so far inland it must surely have been crazed or bewildered.

LIST OF THE BIRDS FOUND BREEDING.

Thryomanes bewicki leucogaster: Texan Bewick's Wren.
Troglodytes ædon parkmanni: Western House Wren.
Icteria virens longicauda: Long-tailed Chat.
Vireo atricapillus: Black-capped Vireo.
Ammodromus caudacutus nelsoni: Nelson's Sharp-tailed Finch.
Passerina ciris: Painted Bunting—Nonpareil.
Pica rustica hudsonica: Black-billed Magpie.
Aquila chrysaetos canadensis: Golden Eagle.
Rallus virginianus: Virginian Rail.
Porzana noveboracensis: Little Yellow Rail.
Gallinula galeata: Florida Gallinule.
Spatula clypeata: Shoveller.
Sterna antillarum: Least Tern.
Hydrochelidon lariformis surinamensis: Black Tern.
Podilymbus podiceps: Thick-billed Grebe.

METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1885.

PREPARED BY PROF. F. H. SNOW, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, FROM OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT LAWRENCE.

The chief meteorological peculiarities of the year 1885 were the low temperature of all its months except November and December; the ample and remarkably well-distributed rainfall; the low aggregate velocity of the wind for every month but August; and the most extraordinary wind velocity on our record (December 4th).

TEMPERATURE.

Mean temperature of the year, 51.01° , which is 2.28° below the mean of the 17 preceding years. The highest temperature was 96° , on July 16th; the lowest was 14.5° below zero, on the 10th of February, giving a range of 110.5° . Mean at 7 A. M., 45.24° ; at 2 P. M. 59.23° ; at 9 P. M. 49.79° .

Mean temperature of the winter months, 24.04° , which is 5.47° , below the average winter temperature; of the spring, 52.41° , which is 1.27° below the average; of the summer, 74.28° , which is 1.64° below the average; of the autumn, 53.33° , which is $.43^{\circ}$ below the average.

The coldest month of the year was January, with mean temperature 18.74° ; the coldest week was January 15th to 21st, mean temperature 1.68° above zero; the coldest day was February 10th, mean temperature 4.12° below zero. The mercury fell below zero on twenty-one days, of which thirteen were in January, seven in February, and one in December.

The warmest month was July, with mean temperature 77.06° ; the warmest week was July 18th to 24th, mean 81.66° ; the warmest day was July 15th, mean 84.75° . The mercury reached or exceeded 90° on 27 days, (14 less than the average number,) viz.: three in June, seventeen in July, and seven in August.

The last hoar frost of spring was on May 8th; the first hoar frost of autumn was on October 4th; giving an interval of 149 days, or nearly five months, entirely without frost. The average interval is 155 days.